

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
Washington, D. C.

CIVIL AIR PATROL

GM-36

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, JUNE 19, 1942

Subject: Letter from Illinois Wing

To: All Wing Commanders

1. The enclosed letter is a sample of many letters which we are receiving at Headquarters from the various Wings throughout the country. We thought you would be interested in reading it.

Earle L. Johnson
EARLE L. JOHNSON
National Commander

M-1594

4-0045



OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
CIVIL AIR PATROL

GM-36 Att. 1.

2614 Civic Opera Building
CHICAGO

June 15, 1942

Major Jack Vilas
National Executive Officer
Civil Air Patrol
Office of Civilian Defense
DuPont Circle Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

Ten squadrons of Groups 611 and 613 had a competitive drill and formal review Saturday afternoon, June 13th.

Unfortunately, Jim Graham was suddenly called to New Orleans due to the death of one of his business associates in Atlanta. The job of running the thing therefore fell upon me with the very able assistance of Howard Warwick and Bill Vignola. We obtained the services of Lieutenant-Colonel Orla Glen Miller, Major Rohrman, and Captain Hitchcock who acted as drill judges and reviewing officers. The weather did not cooperate and it started to rain, but to the credit of C.A.P. members it did not in any way stop or mar the drill or parade - the show continued on without interruption or curtailment of the planned functions.

Squadron 613-2 won the competitive drill and were presented with a C.A.P. flag that had in the bottom scroll the word, "Excellence" written in.

Squadron 611-1 placed second and it is noteworthy that out of a possible 20 points for appearance this squadron received 20 points. Squadron 611-4 came in third and squadron 611-5 came in fourth.

Colonel Miller told me that he has never seen a civilian organization perform as well and few army units have performed better. The review was strictly military and went off in perfect shape as well as if not better than many of the reviews I have seen at Army and Navy camps and posts.

Sunday, June 14th, the enormous parade of everybody in Chicago was held and the C.A.P. members of Groups 611 and 613 marched in its position behind an infantry division of the State Militia, who

succeeded the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. The comments of those who saw the parade were that we were as good as any of the armed units (and much better than the Militia). Our band led us in its own inimitable manner with the drum major performing antics, the likes of which were not equalled by any other unit in the fifteen-hour parade. We received applause through the entire line of march from Chicago Avenue to Twelfth Street. Even the reviewing stand including Mayor Kelly, Governor Green, General Grunert, and Admiral Downes applauded us vigorously as we passed. Upon turning off Michigan Boulevard on Twelfth Street we passed several thousand sailors from Navy Pier who made the buildings wobble with their applause. Chicago knows there is a C.A.P. and has good reason to be proud of it. I personally am so proud of it that words can't express it.

Many pictures of us were taken by our two official Wing photographers, Fred Countiss and Russell Henry, and as soon as they are developed we will shoot you some which will include those of the competitive drill and review of Saturday and the parade on Sunday.

On Monday, June 8th, Group 611 staff and the staffs of the squadrons in that group, together with the Wing staff, had a banquet at the Moraine Hotel in Highland Park; under separate cover we are sending you two copies of the Highland Park News and two copies of the Highland Park Press which contain a write-up of the banquet. The picture of the speakers graces the front cover of the Highland Park News and there is a write-up on page 15. The write-up in the Press appears on the front page.

The Moraine Hotel meeting was held in two parts, the first part being words of praise by the Army officers who were the invited guests, after which they departed and then the meeting took on the form of a complaint session wherein all complaints were aired and ironed out. The meeting was adjourned with everyone feeling better and understanding more of the workings of the group.

Very truly yours,

JAMES R. GRAHAM, Commander Wing 61

By: (sgd) ROBERT K. BELT

R. K. Belt
Executive Officer